

VA-163 SAINTS GRAM



KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

*Distance and time may separate us
but friendship and memories won't*

Dedicated to those who have invested their lives to the cause of Freedom in America! God Bless our Men and Women who are (or Have) in any way or manner served to protect our Great Nation and the freedom we have.
And God Bless the United States of America.



2015

13th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

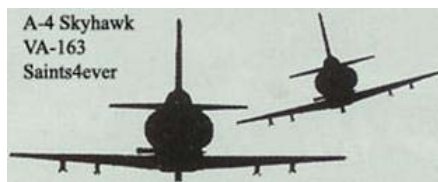
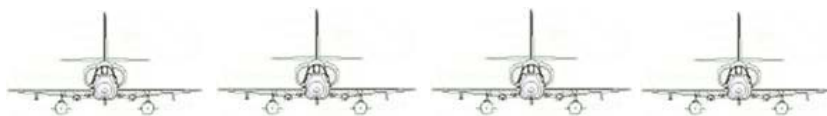
VOL 1 Issue 153



Standing the Watch

Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Keeper of the Flame"

Saints Logo: "Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea"





ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsqUbXCeIA&feature=related> at the top right of your screen, click the Minimize minus sign (-). It will then go back to the newsletter with the music playing. When finished listening to music, go to your desktop home page, on the bottom tool bar, right click on **When the Saints...**, and select close.

The Warrior Song...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITs6a0ORdQU&feature=player_embedded

To all of the United States Armed Forces, with thanks. - Marching Snare Drums

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy: The Andrew Sisters <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pfCFU3Mqww&feature=related>

Ghost Riders in the Sky: Johnny Cash

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mynzbrmp9I>

Run Through the Jungle: CCR

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebl0cMyyw_M

Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue: Toby Keith

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PXSK3iDeAI>

Proud to an American: Lee Hazelwood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps7xmW-9LXQ>

America, The Land I Love: James Rogers

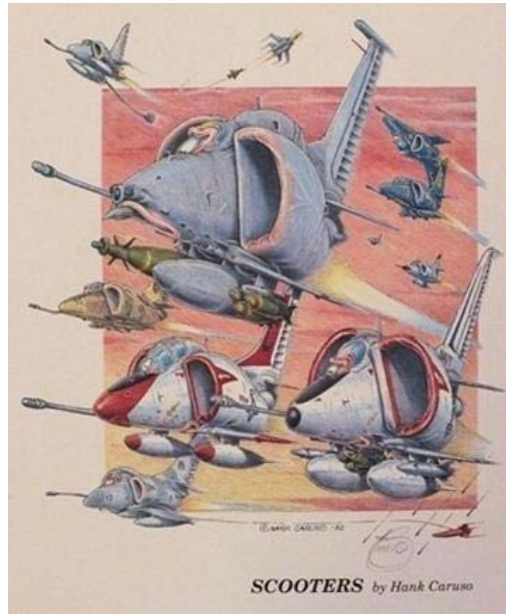
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ICCyjZs3hY

American "New Song": <http://www.youtube.com/v/6TPgJSZf5Vw?version=3&autohide=1&autoplay=1>

Ballad of the Green Berets..1966: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5WJJVSE_BE



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk





Birds of a feather... Flock Together



Jan-Mar 1965



Ed Copher teenager on Oriskany...Saints Avionics shop & Flightdeck



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

Also on Saints website, [PHOTOS](#) section

Contains 76 Albums (Sets).... 4,634 Photos

View Counts as of 04 July 2015

	So far today	Yesterday	All time
Photos and Videos	55	527	521,046
Photo stream	0	4	29,748
Sets	0	8	23,295
Collections	0	0	0
Galleries	0	0	0
Totals:	55	539	574,046



*****FYI***** www.Flickr.com charges \$24.95 per year to keep the [SAINTS Photo Albums](#) on their web site.

****Paid the one year fee on 15 Nov 2014****



*****SAINTS WEB SITE*****

Saints website www.va163.org (password: *Saints4ever* (capital S))

8,076 Visitors since Mar 09

Saints Website and Photos site FEES:

Jim Houston, Palm Coast FL, is the Saints webmaster, he designed the website, and does all the updates etc.

Website Hosting is done by **GoDaddy** at a cost of \$76 for two years (***Paid up until 10 Sept 15***)

Domain Name: (Whois Proof) There is an annual charge for keeping the **Domain Name www.va163.org** which is \$5 p/yr (***Paid until 31 Mar 16***)

Domain Provider: (Active Domain) \$12 p/yr (***Paid up until 31 Mar 2016***)

Photos Site: I also pay for the **Saints Photos** on the **Flicker site** which is \$25 p/yr (***Due 15 Nov of each yr***)

Donations are appreciated



Saint Floyd Oakes: June 2015



Still flying TA-4 at Ellington AFB, Houston TX.....Collins Foundation



June 2015



Capt William Robinson



Thank You !!!





POW Return, Col Bud Day

THANK YOU FOR STANDING TALL

It was a sad and broken time in some ways
Didn't know if America could survive those days
Some left for Canada, but some chose to stay
And answer their country's call.

Some demonstrated or burned their cards
Denigrated soldiers with harsh, bitter words
Some knew they'd receive no other reward
But were ready to give their all.

They risked life and limb every single day
They learned to shoot and watch and pray
Trying to adjust to living that way
They tried ways to stand tall.

Thinking of wives and mothers back home
"Oh, God, don't let me leave her alone!"
The mantra became, "I have to get home!"
And yet so many brave men would fail.

Some broken bodies and some broken hearts
Some whose minds seemed to fall apart
From fighting a war doomed from the start
PTS would become a pall.

And then to come home, not to pride and cheers
But from every side, boos and jeers
God forgive America for those shameful years
Help us now to honor them all.

The one who returned is a white headed old man
But it's never too late to shake his hand
It does his heart good to hear it again
"Thank You for standing tall".

--- Leona Hamilton
Gordon, NE

Honor Flights:

Attached is a website you might want to share on Honor Flights. They are taking any World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans. There is an application process on the regional website for each individual's area. My understanding is it is for the vet and they must use a wheelchair.

Great opportunity for the individuals that get selected.

My husband Don was selected for the Vietnam Honor Flight the middle of May. Mona Humphreys told him to get the word out to any of the Veterans that served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam – for them to apply for the flight.

Suzie and Don Wollek

<https://www.honorflight.org/apply-for-a-veteran-honor-flight/>

Dawn Wells from Gillian's Island



SCUTTLEBUTT

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

From Saint Charlie Stender:

Dear fellow Saints -

This fall I will be riding my bike in the **California Coast Classic Bicycle Tour** to raise funds for the **Arthritis Foundation**, a personal challenge that I'm deeply committed to. We ride 525 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 8 days from September 26 to October 3. If you would like you can help me in my quest to reach my fundraising goal of \$3144 by making a tax-deductible donation in any amount to the **Arthritis Foundation** through my personal web page. Thanks in advance. Charlie.

[Follow This Link](#) to visit my personal web page and help me in my efforts to support the Arthritis Foundation

The facts about arthritis are alarming. An estimated 53 million adults in the United States have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia and most people do not realize that there are over 300,000 children with arthritis and how difficult it is for them and their parents. I personally suffer from arthritis in my left knee and will probably need surgery sometime after the first of the year. While I do not receive any support from the **Arthritis Foundation**, I certainly applaud and support their efforts on behalf of others.

The good news is that arthritis research is making an impact on improving people's lives. The **Arthritis Foundation** devotes more than \$11 million annually to research and is leading the way to more successful treatments. The **Arthritis Foundation** also provides programs that help people with arthritis and their families better understand and cope with their disease.

Thanks for your support



MILITARY REPORT

— The Military's Largest Benefits Update —

www.Military.Com : News

Military Report is the most comprehensive military benefits and quality-of-life newsletter for military personnel and retirees. Make sure that you and your colleagues [subscribe](#) for this free update publication.

Click on each blue link to go there.



The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints

Skyhawk Association website, VA-163 page:

VA-163 Page, click here: <http://a4skyhawk.org/3e/va163/va163o.htm>

Please join the **Skyhawk Association**. They have a great **Quarterly Magazine**...alot of A-4's and Saints articles. **Only \$30 per year.**

Skyhawk Association Members: Use link to access the **Ready Room** for; recent additions, aircraft histories, photo galleries, our roster, journals, and more. Need access? Contact the **RR Coordinator**.

A-4s Forever! sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org / bluebolts6364@aol.com

"**Skyhawk Association Members:** Use the new site address <http://A4skyhawk.org> to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email webmaster@a4skyhawk.org."



Digital Edition of the Skyhawk Journal now online!

Bob Hickerson sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org

Skyhawk Association 99. The annual winter edition of the Skyhawk Journal, Vol. 20-4 (**Winter 2014 2015**) is now available in digital format

at www.a4skyhawk.org . just click on the announcement in the "Attention on Deck" box. Remember that this is a fourth, bonus edition of The A-4Ever and is not intended to be a replacement for any of the three print editions members receive in the mail. Those print editions will be delivered to you in 2015 during March, July and October as in the past. We'd love to have your feedback on this digital issue. Comments to sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org and tell your squadron mates that aren't members that this edition can be viewed by all and their membership would entitle them to all editions over the year. A-4s Forever! Raven



Saints and Military sites for Hats, Shirts, Pins, Decals, and Models: Submitted by Bill Tomko

Go to Saints Website, **Miscellaneous Section**, for details. Also www.usmedals.com

I have done a ton of Internet research looking for Saints, Oriskany and A-4 related collectibles, pictures, books, videos, models, decals, pins, shirts and hats. I was asked to publish some of the links I had been satisfied with. I am happy to share it here and if you need help finding some thing please feel free to email me at Tomkowj@aol.com



Texas Capitol Vietnam Monument added photos.

Click on blue Texas Capitol



Vietnam War Resources:

Below is a link to a web site about the war in Viet Nam. Whether you are a Viet Nam veteran or not, you may find this web site very interesting because it contains an absolutely enormous amount of information about the war. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html>



Remembering the Vietnam War:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XayOuMHlzDM> 7:11 min video

VIETNAM Veterans, War Casualties.....RIP: Memorial Virtual Wall

First click on a state.....then when it opensan alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home townthen it should show you a picture of the person or at least his/her bio and medals.....<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



Vietnam War Resources, Data Site: *Amazing accumulation*

ALMOST ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A LOT MORE:

This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Click on the link: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam..html>



Statistics about the Vietnam War

Interesting information about statistics and myths associated with the Vietnam War... <http://www.vhfcn.org/stat.html>

Superb Vietnam Tributes:

A Place Called Vietnam... <http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>

<http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm>

<http://www.vietnampix.com/>

A well done moving video by Vietnam vets from Michigan .

This was made by Michigan Vietnam Vets, but it says it all for every Vietnam Vet. Share it with a Vietnam Vet or a family that may have lost a Dad, Brother, Uncle or Son...

I thought they did an excellent job on this. Touching, I suspect in the future this theme will be shown over and over again for each conflict. Thankfully the Gulf war vets were welcomed home with honor.
 This is one of the better Vietnam videos made by and for Michigan Vietnam Veterans, but I believe all of you will appreciate this. This story could and is retold by 49 other states and territories as well.
 If you know a Vietnam Veteran consider sending this link to them.
http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Life+Magazine+Vietnam+War+Photography&go=&form=QBIR>



NONE



SAINTS Newsletters in Archives: *To view the last 12 months newsletters*

Go to www.yahoo.com (click on the URL link in blue)

On the Yahoo home page, select **Sign-In**

Type in Yahoo ID: VA163SAINTS@YAHOO.COM

Type in Password: **saints4ever**

After Signed In, back on the Yahoo home page, select **MAIL**

When you get into the mail box, select **Inbox** (on left side window)

Select the newsletter that you want to view.

To get out of Mail, under the top toolbar, find **Yahoo!** click on that to get back to the home page.

"ALSO"

Newsletters are on Saints Website: *Past month's newsletters*

Go to Saints Website, click on [Newsletters](#), password: **saints4ever**



****Websites of Interest****

Oriskany Web Sites:

[USS Oriskany \(CVA 34\)](#) 25 Sep 1950 / 20 Sep 1979 Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as artificial reef. [Click on the ship name for a complete history.](#)

1. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola:* www.ussoriskanyonline.com/ www.mbtdivers.com
2. The best pictures of the reefing. *Going to her final resting place:* <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
5. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-140127976274553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
8. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
9. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/oobooks.htm> 2. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html> 3. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
10. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
11. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
12. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
13. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
14. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
15. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (<http://glewis.us/oobooks.htm>)
16. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
17. **Oriskany Memorial Dive for Saint Ralph Bisz:** *Saints logo patch placed on Oriskany, 20 Sept 2010*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A> 7:13 min video
18. **Oriskany Dive to put Saint Larry Spear's ashes to rest on Oriskany:** *03 Dec 2010*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo> 7:25 min video
19. **Saints Video on YouTube:** *Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire!*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>
20. **USS Hancock:** Click here: [Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock \("Hannah"\)](#)

Picture of Commander Bellingher of VA-162 aboard the USS Oriskany: Submitted by Bob Legette

Interesting article, which shows a picture of Commander Bellingher of VA-162 (MiG-21 kill on 10/09/1966) aboard the USS Oriskany... (I left the ship in September of 1966)

Article is called: Rolling Thunder escalated US involvement in Vietnam's civil war, pulled ground troops into combat...

<http://www.stripes.com/news/special-reports/vietnam-at-50/rolling-thunder-escalated-us-involvement-in-vietnam-s-civil-war-pulled-ground-troops-into-combat-1.332208>

RUSSIAN JETS AT THE PARIS AIRSHOW

Sure glad Putin is our "friend" with the Cold War being history.

Jets ain't s'posed to be able to fly like that!

'Russian UFO Jet Fighters 2014'

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=77e_1389637750

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S "IKE'S" PLANE-----Who knew?

https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ehwvZXVKmPU

Electromagnetic Catapults Are Emblematic Of U.S. Navy's All-Electric Era

<http://news360.com/article/213561132>

Lockheed Wants To Bring the S-3 Viking Back From the Dead

Interesting proposition from Lockheed. Will the Navy go for it?

<http://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/the-navy-should-bring-the-40-year-old-s-3-viking-back-f-1561134099>

VN 40 years ago...75 pictures

<http://www.vintages.com/2015/04/vietnam-war-40-years-ago-75-beathtaking.html>

Legends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-Minh-trail-Laos/>

There are many links to the archive by date as well as to specific articles like this one about an F-4 shootdown:

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-shot-down-plane/>

This is the homepage:

www.laosgpsmap.com

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:

www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/

Navy Manuals: Very interesting

<http://www.hnsa.org/doc/>

Vietnam War Stories:

<http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/>

Tags : [book sites](#), [books war](#), [cherry soldier](#), [combat](#), [Combat Infantry](#), [digital books](#), [firefights](#), [Grunts](#), [Hispanic](#), [Historical fiction](#), [jungle warfare](#), [Military](#), [novels](#), [The vietnam war](#), [The Vietnam war story](#), [Veteran](#), [Vietnam blog pages](#), [Vietnam book](#), [Vietnam conflict](#), [Vietnam veteran](#), [war books](#), [war stor](#), [Wars and Conflicts](#)

Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets.....

<http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm>

1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands..... interesting.

http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf

A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:

Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear.

Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Do you remember these?

This will bring back memories

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k

Aviation Buffs:

Even if you are not into this you might want to pass this treasure trove on to others who are. Click on any of the blues:

- [Aviation](#) [Pioneers](#)
- [World](#) [War I Aces](#)
- [Hall](#) [of Fame of the Air](#)
- [WW2](#) [European Theater \(ETO\)](#)
- [WW2](#) [Pacific Theater \(PTO\)](#)
- [WW2](#) [US Marine Corps](#)
- [WW2](#) [US Navy Aces](#)
- [WW2](#) [Mediterranean \(MTO\)](#)
- [WW2](#) [German Aces](#)
- [Korean](#) [War Aces](#)
- [Russian](#) [Aces](#)
- [Vietnam](#) [Era Aces](#)

- [Airplanes](#)
- [World](#) [War I Planes](#)
- [1930s](#) [Aircraft photos](#)
- [WW2](#) [Fighters](#)
- [WW2](#) [Bombers](#)
- [WW2](#) [German Planes](#)
- [WW2](#) [Airplane Pictures](#)
- [History](#) [of Airplanes blog](#)
- [Nose](#) [Art](#)
- [Postwar](#) [Jets](#)
- [World](#) [War Two](#)
- [WW2](#) [Facts and Firsts](#)
- [WW2](#) [Medals](#)
- [WW2](#) [Museums](#)
- [WW2](#) [Pictures](#)
- [WW2](#) [Ships](#)
- [WW2](#) [Weapons](#)

Vietnam Photos:

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo--599932980.html?format=embed#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Fflightbox%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html>

Military Video ~ Ending is Fabulous

Please take the time to view this and watch till the end. I was so very touched. And once again.... Thank you to ALL who have served our country! I live in a free nation because of your sacrifice! God Bless you! Because of the warriors of the past, the present, and the future, we Americans can walk tall. For those of you of may not know, or have forgotten, Lt. Col. Oliver North was wounded in Vietnam many times and never left the men he commanded. I am now passing this on for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting! When you are done pass it on too, I think it's important ... don't you? If you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything! You are SO special! Take the time for this one. You won't be disappointed ... the end is a kicker. <http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

NAS Lemoore April 1968:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sRIO4kvjVE&feature=youtu.be>

Photos/History of Vietnam:

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History
From the Denver Post.
Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

Vietnam War - Source list

I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers: <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

A-4 Skyhawks:

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

Another Saints website site: By Saint Dennis Lund
<http://www.va-163saints.com/>

When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related>

VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:
VA Benefit Blog
https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall

Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAplCSSZqAs&feature=related>

Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:
http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website: Some of our Saints photos are in there!!!
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 July 2015
Read the **Articles** go to the web site at: http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”
Revised 03 July 2015

New or changed address:
See website roster

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Complete Muster Call can be found on the Saints website – www.va163.org (password, **Saints4ever) capital S**

